Look at Us from the beginning
1669 - 1987

Carolinas Lutheran Church
(Missouri Synod)

Dear "Adopted" daughter!
— Hope you enjoy this
Love,
Kathlee

Look at Us

"Unless I misread what's happening in the Carolinas District, 'something new' is the 'new' interest which congregations are showing in each other. I encourage you to be talking to one another during this convention. As you share the ministry of your congregation with one another, you will be able to discover first-hand the new things that are happening." This statement was made by the Rev. Richard T. Hinz, Executive Secretary of Missions of the Southeastern District LC-MS at the September, 1971 LWML Carolinas District Convention.

From the 1979, 1982, 1983, and 1984 LWML Conventions comes this resolution: "Know Your Sister Church...the fellowship of the Body of Christ...should be shared with sister congregations by our presence...!"

To know our past is to better understand our present and future.

To answer the "I didn't know that!," the idea for a short history of our Lutheran Church in the Carolinas was born in 1984.

Our wish is that this brief history of the loving, loyal dedication and sometimes extreme sacrifices of our ancestors to establish and build the Lutheran Church in the Carolinas will kindle in you the desire to learn more of one another - and to preserve our wonderful heritage.

GOD'S MISSION IS YOU!

My thanks to the church historians for their information and to Gladys Reich for typing this manuscript.

Kathlee Hicks

September, 1987
Charlotte, North Carolina

...from the beginning

"THE LORD HATH DONE GREAT THINGS FOR US WHEREOF WE ARE GLAD."

1669-1670 John Lederer, first known German to enter North Carolina, was sent by the Governor of Virginia to explore. We do not know his religious affiliation, but no doubt his maps and descriptions influenced Germans who we know were Lutherans to come looking for a place to make their home.

1674 - The first Dutch Colony of Lutherans settled on James Island, S.C.

1709 - The Palatines and Swiss Germans arrive at New Bern, North Carolina.

1734 - Colony of Salzburgers land in Charleston, South Carolina.

1735 - The German and Swiss colonists of Orangeburg, South Carolina organized the first Lutheran church in the Carolinas. Rev. John Ulrich Giessendanner was the first ordained Lutheran pastor.

1742 - Rev. Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, D.D., sent from the Mission Society of Halle, Germany, to visit the Salzburg Colony.

1745 - Zion (Organ) and St. Johns (Mt. Pleasant, Cabarrus County) organized.

1750 - April 25. German Evangelical Lutherans in Congaree, South Carolina, (settlement named Saxe-Gotha, Lexington County).

German Lutherans from Pennsylvania began settlements in Central North Carolina.

1763-64 German Lutheran Church at Hard Labor Creek, Abbeville, South Carolina.

1773 - Zion and St. Johns of Cabarrus County called Pastor Adolphus Nussman and Teacher John Gottfried Arends from Hanover, Germany.

1775 - Arends was ordained, becoming the first Lutheran pastor ordained in North Carolina.

1785 - Arends moved to Lincoln County, organizing many congregations (St. John's, Conover). Rev. Arndt (spelling change!) became the acknowledged founder of the Lutheran Church west of the Catawba River.

1803 - Lutheran Churches became members of the North Carolina Synod.

1820 - Joined the Tennessee Synod.

1839 - Founding of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (C.F.W. Walther).

1877 - Rev. Polycarp Henkel called to serve German farmers in Missouri!

1877 - August 18. At meeting at St. John's (Conover) a decision was made to build Concordia College at Conover.

1877 - Rev. Polycarp Henkel returns to Conover to help develop the college and to serve St. Peter's (Conover) and Bethel (Claremont) congregations. Trustees; Rev. Henkel, President, and J. W. Smith, Secretary.

1883 - Concordia College becomes property of Tennessee Synod.

1892 - May 29. The Rev. W. H. T. Day (English Missouri Synod) installed as President of Concordia College.

July 31. George A Romoser (from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis) installed as Professor.

AND SO...Missouri Lutheranism comes to the Carolinas!

1939 - After many years of work under the leadership of Dr. H. B. Hemmeter, President of Concordia College, Conover, the first convention of the Southeastern District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod was held at Concordia Church, Conover, North Carolina, site of the college.

CATAWBA ZONE LUTHERAN CHURCHES

Redeemer Lutheran Church
South Main Street
Catawba, North Carolina 28609

1915 - (Early spring.) Pastor George E. Mennen arrives at the farm yard of Mr. Allison Spencer on Oxford School Road. During the visit, Mr. Spencer asked Pastor Mennen (who was a professor at the Concordia College, Conover), "Do you think we could have church services in Catawba?" The pastor considered this question seriously, and then asked, "Addison, if you have time, we might visit some of the people around Catawba, and see what they think about services in Catawba."

When they completed their visits on that day, twenty-eight people had agreed to come to Catawba for church services. (Being closer than Bethel, Claremont, St. Stephens, Hickory.)

1916 - With a loan from The English District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Redeemer's first structure was built and dedicated.

September 3rd the Pastor Robert Lail was installed as the first pastor with 138 baptized souls.

1960 - Present church structure built and dedicated.

1964 - Educational wing added.

1987 - Presently Redeemer has 273 baptized souls on roles.

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Bethel Lutheran Church
Route 1 Box 621-S
Claremont, North Carolina 28610

This brief history of Bethel must of necessity rely partly on reliable heresay. The original church records were kept in a store safe which was stolen. Thieves took what they wanted and burned the remainder of the contents. This happened prior to 1896.

1940

1870? Reports are that services were held beneath an oak tree during Civil War days. Originally the congregation was known as Piney Grove Church.

1884 - (May 17) Bethel Church dedicated

1891 - The congregation accepted a gift tract of land of three acres with the stipulation a new church be built on it. (No doubt this is the present site of Bethel.)

Bethel, Claremeont, Con't.

Originally, Bethel belonged to the Tennessee Synod.

1897 - Bethel withdrew from the United Synod.

1901 - Became a member of the English District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

1948 - The church frequently renovated, the last in 1948.

1962 - The present Bethel hired an architect.

1964 - February 2. Church dedicated. (The total cost of the building--air conditioning units, new pipe organ and complete furnishings, $130,000.

1969 - Total building cost was met.

1973 - Present Sunday School building remodeled.

With God's blessings, Bethel has grown to be a great witness to our Lord Jesus Christ. We trust a loving and faithful God and Savior to lead and direct us in the years ahead.

TO HIM BE GLORY BOTH NOW AND FOREVER!

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Concordia Lutheran Church
216 5th Avenue SE
Conover, North Carolina 28613

1878 - April. A group of Lutherans, living in and around Conover, gathered in worship to sing the praises of God, to hear His word, to offer prayers before His thone of grace. Later that same year, the group organized a congregation, selected as a name Concordia Lutheran Church, and called its first pastor, Rev. R. A. Yoder.

1878-1897. Concordia used the facilities of Concordia College which was located on the site of the present church.

1894 - Members decided to build their own house of worship.

1897 - Building completed as a landmark of Catawba County, one of the finest structures in the area.

1944 - Purchased the property which had served as the campus for Concordia College (which had closed in 1931).

1952 - Building Fund established toward the goal of a new church building.

1958 - Concordia's present house of worship dedicated (it too is a landmark church in the community and state).

1958 - The first church which served as a center for preaching and teaching of God's Word became a part of Concordia Christian Day School complex.

Concordia, Conover, Con't.

1981 - Concordia history book written by Pastor Patten was nominated for an award by August R. Suelflow, Director, Concordia Historical Institute in St. Louis, Missouri.

Concordia stands as a symbol of the faith of the people of God, and the blessings of God upon the work of His people.

"Oh, give thanks unto the Lord for He is good!"

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Immanuel Lutheran Church
Route 3 Box 500
Conover, North Carolina 28613

1894 - Founded and organized by the Rev. Louis B. Buchheimer (an instructor at Concordia College, Conover). The first services were held in an abandoned school house soon supplanted with a house of worship built entirely with volunteer labor.

1949 - Present worship facility built, followed a few years later by a Sunday School building.

1962 - Church parsonage built.

1979 - Fellowship, recreaton and sports court built.

Except for the first two years of its existence, Immanuel has been a self-supporting congregation. Throughout her history, Immanuel has remained true and loyal to the Word of God and the Lutheran Confessions.

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St. John's Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 575
Conover, North Carolina 28613

1798 - From a deed recorded in the Lincoln County Court House, the congregation existed before 1798. St. John's was founded by "Pennsylvania Dutch" who began to flow from Pennsylvania into the Carolinas in 1750.

1798 - Johann Gottfried Arends (Arndt) came to Cabarrus County as a church-school teacher, became ordained into the ministry and moved to what is now Catawba County and was most probably the first pastor of St. John's.

1812

1812 - (About)...that part of the Reformed and Lutheran congregations who lived in the bend of the Catawba River erected for themselves a commodious log

St. John's, Conover, Con't.

building...every plank was hand sawed and hand dressed - every nail handmade. The church served the needs of the black and white congregations (the Lutherans using the building three Sundays a month, the Reformed, one Sunday).

1803 - Joined the North Carolina Synod.

1820 - Joined the Tennessee Synod.

1883 - The log church was replaced with a plain but adequate brick church which would seat 300.

1895 - Joined English Lutheran Synod of Missouri (congregation officially withdrew from Tennessee Synod on December 20, 1896).

1948 - New church building which incorporated the first brick church.

1950 - March. New church building destroyed by fire on Marth 17th. On the 22nd the pastor (Rev. James Summers) and the congregation gathered in the humble little hut adjoining the charred remains. There was conviction in the heart of every person that the church should be rebuilt.

1951 - Dedication of the present church.

1959 - A gymnasium built for $40,000.

1951

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St. Peter's Lutheran Church
Route 4 Box 162
Conover, North Carolina 28613

St. Peter's Church can be best located as the church near Oxford Dam; or, to use a far older description, "the old meeting house...on the road from Oxford Ford to Lincolnton." The second description is taken from the Lincoln County records of July, 1816. Time has changed most of the facts in the early county record--St. Peter's is now in Catawba, not Lincoln County. Oxford Dam has drowned out the old river ford, and the present destination of Oxford Road (NC Highway 16) is Newton.

But "the old meeting house" is not gone, it has grown and prospered.

1816-1825. Services were most probably conducted in German, and as in Germany, the men sat on one side of the building, the women on the other. Pastor

R. J. Miller was the circuit rider serving the Oxford area. (Pastor Miller was one of the four Lutheran pastors who organized the North Carolina Synod in 1803).

This group was not formally organized as a congregation, only a name to that first structure. "The Meeting House" where marriages, baptisms, and memorial services for those buried since the pastor's last visit were conducted.

1825 - Congregation formally organized as St. Peter's Church (formal church records began with the baptism of Elizabeth Heffner, August 18, 1825).

1827 - Deed to the land and new log church recorded in Lincolnton.

1857 - Deed for church property officially filed in Newton Courthouse (seat of the young county of Catawba).

1865 - The congregation reorganized. (The church had been torn and scattered during the War Between the States, leaving almost no knowledge of the members).

173 persons signed the register - Congregation as a member of the Tennessee Synod.

1873 - A new church, "The Frame Church." Materials and labor given by the members. (This building lasted 75 years.)

1901 - The English Synod officially became a district of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

1913-1922. Parochial School in operation.

1923 - First Ladies Aid organized.

1949 - March 20. Cornerstone for present sanctuary laid.

The book of Revelations refers to congregations as having a personality; truly, St. Peter's is that of service. We find constant mention in the earliest to the present records of volunteer labor and donated materials, from the old log church to the new brick church and parsonage. They were built largely by members. The land for the cemetary was cleared by the Laymen's League, the Women's League cares for the altar and communion ware, and many, many other examples of service. This record of service is one reason why "the Old Meeting House on the road from Oxford Ford" is still an active house of worship in the community.

Lake Norman Lutheran Chapel
Route, Box 11C
Denver, North Carolina 28037

1977 - January. Pastor Frerking was asked by some members of Ascension (in Charlotte) who lived in the area to conduct services. Services were held in a room adjacent to John Hecht's real estate office.

1978 - February. Rev. Elmer Medley called and commissioned as mission developer for the area.

1980 - The present church building dedicated just off Highway 16 North. The area which is served by the congregation exists because of a large man-made lake, owned by Duke Power Company. Interestingly enough, the forester engineer in charge of developing the lake was Carl Blades, a charter member of the congregation.

Lake Norman (with a 500-mile shoreline) has many permanent residents and is growing every day. The recreational opportunities bring many weekend visitors as well.

The church has established itself in the community and there is a potential for strong growth and an expansion of the existing church structure.

Charter Statement: As Lutheran Christians in an area which God has blessed with abundant beauty and recreational appeal, we recognize God as The Source, not only of our surroundings, but of every part of our lives, separately and in community.

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Holy Cross Lutheran Church
612 South College Avenue
Newton, North Carolina 28658

1948 - Established as a sister congregation by Concordia (Conover) and Pastor R. E. Lineberger.

1949 - Concordia transferred 39 souls to Holy Cross.

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Mt. Olive Lutheran Church
7 Mt. Olive Road
Newton, North Carolina 28658

1892 - First preaching services were held in the old Setzer school near the present church buildings.

1895 - Congregation formally organized under the leadership of Professor George Romoser. The congregation went to work immediately to build a sanctuary

on land given by Mrs. George Moose and Mr. J. M. Setzer. The men of the church cut the logs, hauled them to a saw mill and then to the building site where they erected the sanctuary themselves. Dedicated in November.

1895

1932 - November. A larger sanctuary was needed. So in the height of the depression, a brick veneer structure was erected. Part of the work on this building was also done by members of the congregation.

1968 - The second sanctuary again became inadequate for a growing congregation. Since it was impossible to enlarge the church building, it was decided to build a new sanctuary on land across the road. The present beautiful structure was dedicated to the Glory of God in February.

1987 - A full day care (Early Childhood Center) opened, and expansion completed on education wings of the church.

As Mt. Olive congregation was ready to go forward in doing the Lord's work in the past 93 years, so it should be in the years that lie ahead.

May we all continue to build His Kingdom here at Mt. Olive and throughout the world.

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Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
465 Hartness Road
Statesville, North Carolina 28677

1929 - Spring. Services were begun by Rev. C. O. Smith. The first services were held in a store, but the group later began to meet in the home of one of its members.

1929 - Summer. Candidate Roswell Mennen was called to serve Holy Trinity and the Taylorsville congregation.

1929 - October. Holy Trinity officially organized with eight communicant members.

1930 - January. Land on West Front Street (near Park Drive) was given by a member to the English District on which to build a church.

1930 - April 6. The congregation's first church dedicated.

1939 - Southeastern District organized and Holy Trinity became a member.

Holy Trinity was paired with Redeemer, Catawba, in a dual parish arrangement with the pastor residing in Catawba.

Holy Trinity, Statesville, Con't.

1955 - Became a single parish with its own resident pastor, The Rev. Donald Miller.

1958 - November, the congregation dedicated its second and current church located on Hartness Road.

1975 - The congregation became self-supporting.

1982 - Summer. The members undertook the construction of a four-room addition to the fellowship hall, which was dedicated in October.

Currently, Holy Trinity has 213 baptized members, 166 of whom are communicant members.

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Salem Lutheran Church
Route 4 Box 425
Taylorsville, North Carolina 28681

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 535
Taylorsville, North Carolina 28681

1892 - August 13. Lutherans who belonged to Friendship and Salem congregations and a few others living in Taylorsville met and organized a congregation under the leadership of pastor D. L. Settlemyre, who served St. Paul's congregation from 1893-1894. A constitution was drawn up and they joined the Tennessee Synod with an enrollment of 31 communicant members.

1894 - Pastor G. E. Long served the pastorate until 1897.

1895 - Original parsonage built, but not occupied until 1905, as the three congregations were served by pastors stationed in Catawba County.

1905 - St. Paul's and Salem applied for membership in the English District of the Missouri Synod and received subsidy from that district's mission board to help pay their expenses.

Up to this time, the congregations had been served by ministers living in Catawba County. Frequently high waters and sand in the Catawba River gave trouble in crossing; severe winters with snowstorms and bad roads hindered traveling that distance in "horse and buggy days." Services were irregular, ministers could give only of their "spare time" which meant Saturday or Sunday afternoon services....

1905-1911. Pastor C. O. Smith served the congregation and moved into Taylorsville. in 1907. (At that ime the parsonage was owned jointly by St. Paul's, Salem and Friendship churches.)

1911 - Friendship sold their interest to St. Paul's and Salem.

1915 - April. The Sunday School was organized.

Salem, St. Paul's, Con't.

1956 - St. Paul's and Salem decide to become self-supporting.

1962 - After the death of Pastor Woidke, the congregations were vacant for a year.

It was at this time that St. Paul's and Salem decided that each would call their own pastor.

1970-1979. New educational wing built at St. Paul's. This provided six classrooms and a church office.

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CENTRAL ZONE

Redeemer Lutheran Church
2306 Lacy Street
Burlington, North Carolina 27215

1957 - May. Church organized. That same month the women met and formed a Mission and Altar Guild.

1957 - August. First pastor arrived (student John Polk).

1958 - September. Women became a member of the Carolinas District.

We thank our Lord for these years of His many blessings to Redeemer, and pray for His continuing guidance!

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Cross of Christ Lutheran Church
1505 New Garden Road
Greensboro, North Carolina 27410

Mission congregation begun from Ebenezer Church.

1968 - July 28. Pastor Edmund Fritz installed (after serving a year as Missionary-at-Large). New facilities dedicated. Dr. Oswald Hoffman preached to an overflowing audience on Tuesday evening. The community north of Guilford College expresses great enthusiasm over the congregation's outreach.

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Ebenezer Lutheran Church
310 South Tremont Drive
Greensboro, North Carolina 27403

1907 - September 29. First service held at the old First Presbyterian Church (now the historical museum). Continued to meet in the Henry Jacobs home for Sunday School.

Ebenezer, Greensboro, Con't.

1909 - Rev. George E. Mennen called as Missionary for North Carolina and adjacent states and became Ebenezer's first resident pastor.

October 15. Church formally organized. The group acquired property and built a small chapel between Percy and Charles Streets.

1925 - January 7. The Ladies Aid Society organized.

1929 - The first unit of the present church constructed on the corner of Walker Avenue and Tremont Drive.

1957-1958. A second parsonage purchased. (Old parsonage turned into an educational building later moved to facilitate the building of a new sanctuary.)

1959 - August 9. New sanctuary dedicated.

Several members have been with Ebenezer since the building of the chapel in 1929. They are William Smyre, Margaret Witmering, Hannah Jacobs, Erich Naw, John Gehrke and Victor Gehrke.

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Grace Lutheran Church
1315 E. Washington Street
Greensboro, North Carolina 27401

1883 - November. The Lutheran Synodical Conference Board sent Missionary F. Herman Meyer to begin work in Greensboro. Prior to this, Lutheranism was unknown in the city.

1884 - July 29. John C. Schmidt was ordained and commissioned to continue this ministry. From a beginning of two women and three children, in just two years the group numbered 65 souls. During this time worship services and day school classes were held in a lodge hall on the corner of Ashe and McCullock Streets.

1893 - Congregation founded.

1897 - February 3. Formally organized into the Evangelical Lutheran Grace Congregation.

May 2. New building dedicated. This building served for day school and worship services until it was destroyed by fire in 1928.

1905 - Immanuel Lutheran College established.

1920 - Luther Memorial Congregation organized.

1923 - October. Missionary Wiley H. Lash served congregation. Membership grew from 53 to 94 baptized; communicants - 86. School enrollment was 70; teachers were Anna Cobb and M. V. Lash.

Grace, Greensboro, Con't.

1928 - Fire destroyed building. No funds available to replace the building. The Lord led the two small congregations to merge, and together they selected a new site on East Washington Street and Benbow Road.

1930 - May 11. The new building dedicated as Grace-Luther Memorial Lutheran Church.

1965 - By a resolution of the congregation, the name was shortened to the present Grace Lutheran Church.

From the original organization, the parochial school has been an integral part of this congregation. This is the only predominantly Black congregation in the Southeastern District of the LC-MS that maintains a parochial school beyond the kindergarten level.

Undoubtedly, one of the greatest witnesses which this congregation has given to the community has been through its ministry of education.

Since 1965 Grace has sponsored and operated a campus ministry program at North Carolina A & T State University. The staffing, for the most part, has come from the laity of this congregation.

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Grace Lutheran Church
808 North Centennial
High Point, North Carolina 27262

1971 - Active LWML.

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St. Lukes Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 238
High Point, North Carolina 27260

1908 - Founded.

1924 - Missionary F. Foard. Baptized members: from 23 to 28. School erected (The children of the Southern Nebraska District gave $2,047.74).

This mission station became the charge of Professor Naether with the help of the theological students from Greensboro.

1968 - Property purchased from Urban Renewal for parking.

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Fount of Life Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 685
Kernersville, North Carolina 27284

1965 - August 11. Officially organized at the home of Charles and Mary Gore with Missionary-at-Large Lawrence Kelm. 16 Charter Members.

November 7. First worship service held at the Seventh-Day Adventist Church on West Mountain Street.

1967 - April. Received a gift of property--3.6 acres on I-40.

1968 - July. Worship service and Sunday School moved to Clifton Street, into the basement of a house rented for the parsonage.

November 10. Rev. Kelm installed as the first pastor.

1974 - December 8. Groundbreaking for new church building.

1975 - June 29. Moved into new church (which seats 120 and can be used as a fellowship hall also).

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St. Johns Lutheran Church
2415 Silas Creek Parkway
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 28103

The first Missouri Synod Lutheran Church in Winston-Salem started as a mission congregation of Ebenezer, Greensboro. Pastor W. D. Spencer rode over on the train from Greensoro on Sunday afternoons and was picked up at the station by one of the founders, George Appel, in his Model "T" Ford.

1937 - Pastor Spencer was followed by Pastor R. E. Scaer, who served both congregations also.

In the fall, Pastor Richard Meibohm became the first resident pastor.

1941 - New church built at Queen Street and Westwood Avenue.

1949 - Pastor Meibohm started "The Vacation Bible School of the Air" when polio epidemic prohibited meetings. There was also a "Daily Bible Story Hour" and a "Bible Quiz Kids Program."

1951 - May. A new educational wing added to the church.

Fall. First class in Christian Day School.

1953 - God blessed St. John's so that it was necessary to enlarge the church and add a second story to the educational wing.

1959 - Queen Street location was becoming impractical due to the expansion of the neighboring Baptist Hospital. The congregation voted to sell the facilities.

1959 - August 30. A new church and school dedicated on Silas Creek Parkway.

St. Johns, Winston-Salem, Con't.

1960 - 286 Communicants, 435 souls, with a capacity enrollment of 130 students in the Day School.

1962 - Pastor Walter Roe, Jr. introduced contemporary folk services and served as campus minister for area colleges.

1973 - Pastor Lester Wolf introduced tableau worship services.

1984 - Construction of a new wing (office for Pastor Steve Sigmon, conference room, school offices).

1985 - Under the leadership of Principal Walter Klenke "new life" has come to St. Johns' school. Many fine programs have been added in the Kindergarten through eighth grade.

Once again, God's continuing Grace has St. Johns' looking for ways to expand.

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St. Marks Lutheran Church
1417 Donald Street
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27107

1913 - Founded.

1921 - February. Missionary Jesse Hunt. Baptized members: from 15 to 19; Communicants: 13.

The children of Iowa and Minnesota collected $7,494.39 for a chapel.

1926 - October. Professor Naether helped Missionary Hunt to canvass Winston-Salem. "The rapid growth of this city gives us reason to hope that our mission at this place should flourish." (From Twenty-Third Report of the Board of Missions, July, 1924 to July, 1926.

1968 - September 29. New house of worship and educational facilities dedicated. Community growth in the new Urban Renewal Area must soon be reflected in increased membership.

1971 - January 3. Installation of Rev. Douglas Shamburger, Pastor.

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Resurrection Lutheran Church
2002 Kildaire Farm Road
Cary, North Carolina 27511

Taking their turn in a community agreement between Lutheran Synods, the Southeastern District of the Missouri Synod purchased 7.2 acres of land for a new church in Cary. Members of Our Savior, Raleigh, living in the Cary area, formed the organizing core group.

1977 - November 2. First organizational meeting with 15 families present.

1978 - May 21. The first service was held.

September 16. Our women were chartered with LWML.

October 1. First Sunday School with eight children.

November 19. The first pastor arrives, the Rev. Marvin Schedler.

1979 - April 15. Charter Sunday with 23 families.

1983 - Rev. Paul Kibler installed on October 2.

Ground breaking on December 4.

1984 - September 5. Preschool for three year olds begins with 10 children.

New church building dedicated on November 4.

(Continued next page)

1987 - June. Finished school year with 48 children in 4 classes.

With approximately one hundred families, average Sunday attendance is 140. Two worship services are being considered for Fall of 1987.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

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Grace Lutheran Church
811 West Knox Street
Durham, North Carolina 27701

1942 - Services held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Appel for three months.

A house was rented with one room for living quarters for Rev. R. C. Landeck; the rest of the house was converted into a place for worship.

1944 - A building was rented for worship. Four other families had moved to Durham. Despite the many trials and hardships, this small group, which had now grown to a number of five families and who the Lord had endowed with a spirit of oneness and a zeal to strive forward toward the goal of establishing a permanent congregation in Durham.

1945 - September 16, the attendance was 34; it became evident we were growing in numbers and needed a larger place of worship.

Late in year, a lot was purchased for a church.

1946 - October 21. Contract was let for the new building.

1947 - June 29. The doors of the chapel opened for the first service. This was a day of rejoicing! Pastor Paul W. Gabbert had accepted a call to this small congregation.

August 10. Dedication of the new church. By this time, the membership had grown and all the organizations of the church were functioning.

1950 - March 26. Sunday School recorded a record attendance of 63; the highest in the history of our church at that time.

...up to 1956 the congregation was active in furnishing the church and Sunday School areas, landscaping the yard and keeping the area in good repair, and in fellowship.

Present - A new addition has been added to the church with remodeling of the old section in progress.

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Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
1605 Van Buren Avenue
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28303

1962 - Pastor Walter Volz (from Aiken, S.C.) in his work with the Southeastern District Mission Board visited Fayetteville. Soon after his visit, he recommended that a mission with a full time pastor be established in the area.

September 16 the first service was held in a converted store with 53 people in attendance.

In July, Rev. John Kellogg became the Missionary-at-Large in Fayetteville area, including Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base.

In November the group moved into a more accomodating building at 1337 Bragg Boulevard.

1963 - Woman's Guild organized. Worship attendance passed 100, and Pastor Kellogg was installed.

1964 - Under God's continued blessing, the congregation continued to grow, and in March it became necessary to conduct two Sunday morning services. Land was also purchased for the present church which was convenient to the military bases.

1965 - September 26. Church building dedicated and a new parsonage was built.

1967 - Chaplain Roger W. Heinz of Fort Bragg and Pastor Volz (now pastor of Our Savior, Raleigh) served the congregation. (Chaplain Heinz was later killed in Viet Nam.)

1968 - March. Pastor Keith Loesch was installed. Thanks to God's blessing and grace, the congregation gets on with their mission!

1969-1971. Through arrangements with the Southeastern District and Alabama Lutheran Academy and College, black students were requested and were involved in all phases of congregational work, aiding the church's ministry in the community while at the same time fostering human relations and understanding.

1972 - The first ten years of existance showed that many lives have been touched by the Gospel: Baptized - 18 adults, 191 children; Confirmed - 57 youth, 57 adults; Weddings - 24; Funerals - 7. During this ten years, 300 families held membership for varying lengths of time while many others were part of the congregation without transferring their membership.

1973 - July 1. Pastor Harold Kitzmann installed.

1974 - Four classrooms added; congregation becomes self-supporting.

1979 - January. Pastor Al Peuster installed. Many physical changes and improvements made Our Redeemer contine to grow.

1986 - The staff was increased to include part-time paid youth and evangelism

directors to provide improved ministry for members and the community where at the beginning, the congregation was 100% military; today is 60% civilian. It has been multi-raced since very early in its life.

With God'd grace, Our Redeemer will continue to minister to God's people as it continues to grow and mature.

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Peace Lutheran Church
Route 10 Box 218
Goldsboro, North Carolina 27530

1968 - February. Church services were held in the Goldsboro Moose Lodge with nineteen charter member families. (Prior to this, area Lutherans had traveled to Kinston, NC to attend Faith Lutheran Church.)

May. Increased attendance soon made the need for a larger and more approriate worship setting evident.

1969 - January. Through the prayerful support of congregations in Illinois, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Louisiana, Wisconsin, and the Southeastern District, a church building was constructed.

Christmas Day. First worship service in the new building.

1971 - April. First actual pastor, Rev. Robert Burkhead Hill, Jr., who also acted as a Missionary-at-Large.

1978 - September. Pastor Hill departs to enter the US Army Chaplaincy. The vacancy is served by Rev. Ronald Fletcher, Kinston, and Rev. James Pierce of Wilson.

1980 - January. Rev. Allen Ralph Deinert assumes pastoral duties.

Peace is still largely military in character. Many of the members are actively serving the country through Seymour Johnson Air Force Base. They, their dependents and a number of retired Air Force families make up much of the ministry of Peace. Currently, there are 37 families, including 135 individuals; 70 communicant members.

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Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 2684
Greenville, North Carolina 27834

1978 - Organized as a mission from Faith, Kinston.

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St. Pauls Lutheran Church
105 Foxhall Street
Havelock, North Carolina 28532

1956 - Organized. Members of Faith, Kinston helped start the mission.

1964 - from Pastor R. P. Sieving, Executive Secretary-Missions, SED, in the LWML Convention Manual: "Special thanks are due to the District LWML for assisting in furnishing the new educational building now completed. Sunday School attendance, 130; 120 in Vacation Bible School." Day school in operation.

Editor's Note: This area was later destroyed by fire and the area churches offered their facilities to continue the school until rebuilding could take place. Since everything was destroyed, this took several years. Pastor Richard Hill served this parish until accepting a call to Portsmouth, VA. The church serves the large Marine Base near by.

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Calvary Lutheran Church
206 Pine Valley Road
Jacksonville, North Carolina 28540

1961 - The Mission Board of SED contemplated opening work in the Jacksonville area to serve especially the enlisted men and Civil Service people. The work was abandoned.

1962 - The pastor from Havelock was encouraged by a large number of Lutherans to conduct services in a Moose Hall (in the evenings). Average attendance - 60.

1963 - Organized as a mission sponsored by Faith, Kinston.

1968 - July. Appeal for funds from Southeastern District Mission Board to assist the congregation in constructing first unit of worship.

1973 - Dedication of new church building on January 21.

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Faith Lutheran Church
709 West Vernon Avenue
Kinston, North Carolina 28501

1940 - Rev. Robert Landeck surveyed the Kinston area, found one Lutheran, and made arrangments to begin worship services on December 15. Pastor Landeck rented a small apartment, living in one room and the services were held in another. Rev. Fred Lineberger of Wilson was the speaker for this first service.

The Lutheran Church comes to Kinston to do a definite work here. Our motto offers: "A Changeless Christ for a Changing World." Like every other city, Kinston needs a positive program of Bible preaching and Christ-centered teaching. This is what the Lutheran Church has to offer.

Faith, Kinston, Con't.

1942 - This small group moved to the present Taylor's Market and Grocery Store. This move was called a "dream come true" since it provided more spacious facilities.

These were war years and Faith tried to serve Lutherans at Stallings Field, Camp LeJeune, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, Cherry Point, and Fort Bragg.

1943 - Attendance at church was about 20.

1944 - Rev. Landeck accepts call to Ebenezer, Greensboro. Rev. Erwin Goltermann becomes the pastor in May.

1945 - May. Building site purchased and architect bids made. The low bid was about $13,000, not including plumbing, heating and electrical fixtures! Rev. Goltermann wrote at the time, "By eliminating the cost of a small steeple, but including everything else, the sum of $15,000 would build us a church in Kinston."

1948 - January 25, almost two and a half years after the contract was signed, the new church was dedicated. (Materials and labor scarce after the war.)

1951 - September. Many families moved away when the local air force base closed.

A great deal of credit should be given to the church's leaders during a period of time without a pastor in keeping members united and hopeful during a very difficult time.

1967 - July. Rev. Robert Duddleston becomes pastor until 1976 when he accepted a call to Calvary, Charleston, SC.

1977 - August 28, the Rev. Ronald Fletcher (from Trinity, Milwaukee, Wisconsin) was installed as pastor.

People prayed for and supported Faith for these many years. Only recently has Faith become self-supporting. During those years, members of Faith helped to start four other churches in Eastern North Carolina.

We know not what future the Holy Spirit has for our congregation. Conditions are as challenging as when the first members gathered in worship. The mission is still the same...God will provide!

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Our Savior Lutheran Church
1500 Glenwood Avenue
Raleigh, North Carolina 27608

1941 - November, the first worship service. The beginning of our congregation was very humble. A "handful" gathered for our first service in a home several blocks from our present site.

1943 - April. Congregation organized.

1944 - 17 communicants.

Our Savior, Raleigh, Con't.

1949 - The original church (presently the Burn Conference and Music Room) was built and dedicated.

1953 - 76 communicants; 124 baptized members.

1964 - Our striking and contemporary sanctuary dedicated.

1965 - Pastor Walter Volz installed.

1966 - Congregation becomes self-supporting.

1967 - September. 25th Anniversary Festival Service. 240 communicants.

1974 - 450 communicants; 589 baptized members.

1975 - October. Chaplain John Costello assumes directorship of Triangle Chaplaincy Ministry.

1976 - 514 communicants, 638 baptized members.

1977 - October. Decision made to initiate new mission work in Cary.

1978 - 529 communicants, 653 baptized members. In November, completion of church undercroft for educational facilities.

1981 - Rev. L. R. Lineberger installed.

1984 - 569 communicants, 716 baptized members.

1985 - March. Mortgage burning service.

We are a people who find strength for living and hope for dying through the proclamation of God's Good News in Jesus Christ. We strive to be faithful in caring for human needs, first within the family of God and then in the hurting and hungry world.

Most of us have come from other places. The rapid growth and economic health of the Raleigh area bring many new faces to our community. Some stay a lifetime! Many for a few months or a few years.

There is a rich variety of professions and circumstances of employment among our members. Many are employed by NC State University and Research Triangle industries. Since we are presently the only Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in Raleigh, our membership is widely scattered. We think of ourselves as a healthy, vibrant congregation which is eager to Serve!

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St. Paul Lutheran Church
Route 2 Box 268
Norlina, North Carolina 27563

1881 - Advertisements appeared in the papers of Germany, making it seem like the area of Warren County was the ideal place to live. These ads were

placed by Pastor Neuman, the missionary who was to meet the newcomers, especially from Germany. He was also employed by the large landowners of Warren County to advertise their land holdings, which they wanted to sell.

1882 - About a dozen families left Germany (most of them from the Bavaria) in response to these ads. They were met by Pastor Neuman in New York. He helped them on their way to the area. During the first year he came here (Ridgeway) at least two times to conduct services in the home of one of the families.

1883-1898. Services were held in two areas of the settlements, about three miles apart, by two retired ministers (Pastors Wolf and Dimminger) of the General Synod (which is said to belong to the then United Lutheran Church). These services were held in the homes.

1898 - A call was sent to Pastor Theodore Henkel which he accepted. (The settlers were interested in getting a school started, and having been informed that pastors of the Missouri Synod would also teach school.)

When Pastor Henkel came, there was no church, no parsonage, or school available for use. The congregation rented a house for the pastor and made plans to build a church.

1902?- Church dedicated and also used for school purposes until the school and parsonage was built. The members did most of the actual labor of putting up the three buildings.

1923 - The school was in operation until it became apparent that the pastor was reluctant to teach school.

1925 or 1926 - Seating space in church enlarged.

1950 - A new sanctuary with basement for Sunday School rooms were built onto the old church which was remodeled for a parish hall and kitchen.

1953 - July 12. Dedication of this new church which is still in use at the present time. The membership of St. Paul has remained fairly stable at about 200 communicants during the past thirty years--the children of the families who are adults are living over the whole of this land and are active in their new church homes.

As the founding fathers of St. Paul's put their trust in God's grace and mercy to help them in settling in a new country and through very trying times in getting started in their livelihood and starting and keeping the church going, too, we depend on God's blessing and protective care for which we thank and praise Him.

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St. James Lutheran Church
938 West New Hampshire Avenue
Southern Pines, North Carolina 28387

1898 - Work started by Dr. N. J. Baake, pioneer in Lutheran work among the blacks.

1899 - May 14th. First members gained: 6 confirmed, 5 baptized.

1900 - June 18. 6 confirmed, 3 baptized. (Mrs. Kate Harrison Kelly baptized--she is still alive and some of this information in history is from her.)

1905 - Rev. John McDavid becomes pastor (one of the first black ministers trained at the Lutheran Seminary in Springfield, Illinois). Many pastors have served St. James: Rev. Theo Burch, lived in Southern Pines and also taught school at St. James; Rev. John Alston, Fred Foard, Charles Peay (composed the first graduating class of Immanual Lutheran College and Seminary in Greensboro, North Carolina); Rev. C. R. March served and taught school. Many students from the seminary at Greensboro preached at St. James. Dr. Richard Dickinson, Executive Secretary of the Lutheran Commission of the Black Ministry, was one of them.

1931-1939. Pastor W. F. Pledger.

1940 - Pastor J. E. Shufelt began his long ministry.

1966 - Palm Sunday, the present church and school building dedicated.

Kindergarten started with a large enrollment. Since then it has become Pre-kindergarten and serves the community in this way.

1966 - Pastor Raymond Neely installed.

1978 - December 3. Pastor Robert Haertel installed.

Realistically, it has often been a struggle for St. James Church to keep going, but the work has been carried on by some determined people who loved the church. Sometimes St. James has had its own full time pastor, when we had spurts of growth; sometimes students from the Seminary in Greensboro; sometimes a part-time pastor from another Lutheran church.

Presently the spirit is great, things seem to be moving forward and we are gaining people with church attendance increasing, and we are becoming more involved in the community. 65 active communicants, 28 baptized children.

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Messiah Lutheran Church
3302 South College Road
Wilmington, North Carolina 28403

"The Church for People," Messiah is a church family made up of people from many parts of the world that God has drawn together here in Wilmington. This is our history:

Messiah, Wilmington, Con't.

1966 - June. Rev. Robert Rub, Jr. assigned by the Southeastern District as a missionary to survey the area. A six-month door-to-door survey indicated that many people were not members of any church. The steady growth of the port city and its excellent prospects for future growth led officials of the District to approve the establishment of a new congregation in Wilmington.

1966 - November 20, first service at 4616 Long Leaf Hills Drive.

1967 - January 1 services moved to Winter Park Community Building.

January 23. Founding of congregation (4 laymen and the pastor).

May. Moved to third location (3818 Wrightsville Avenue), 8 communicants.

1969 - 18 members.

1970 - March. 60 adults and over 40 children.

April 5. Pastor Rub officially installed.

September 20. Church building completed and dedicated (this building is still being used today as a worship area for 130 people with eight classrooms, an office and a kitchen.

1973 - October 14. Farewell to Pastor Rub. Vicar Dennis Retzlatt served during vacancy.

1975 - January 8. Installation of Rev. Johnnie E. Shue, who resigned Spring, 1977.

1977 - September 18. Rev. Robert R. Behnke installed. The church became self-supporting with many physical improvements in the entire building. The church has experienced a steady growth over the years and is still growing to the point that we now have 141 communicants.

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Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 906, Vance and Rountree
Wilson, North Carolina 27894-0906

1937 - September 29. Rev. H. F. Meyer, Missionary of the English District, LC-MS, begins a Sunday School in the Elijah Barnes home.

1937-1940. A preaching station is conducted by Rev. Meyer, student R. L. Landeck, and Rev. Fred Lineberger.

1940 - November 27. Rev. Lineberger installed as Missionary for the Wilson area.

1941 - Our Redeemer Lutheran Church organized.

May 10. Site is purchased (corner of Vance and Deans Streets).

November 23. Groundbreaking (Rev. Lineberger, contractor and chairman of the Building Committee) of beautiful native stone building.

Our Redeemer, Wilson, Con't.

1942 - April 26. Cornerstone is laid.

October 18. First service is held in basement.

1943 - February 21. Dedication.

June 24. Rev. Lineberger installed as pastor.

1956 - July 29. Rev. Lineberger retires from active ministry due to poor health following a stroke.

1958 - September. Kindergarten begun, with first grade added the following year.

1961 - June. Group of families leave to organize Ascension Lutheran Church (ULCA).

1965 - January 1. Congregation becomes self-supporting.

1957-1982. Pastors who served Our Redeemer: Rev. Edwin Kringel, Alvin Boehlke (Missionary-at-Large), Walter Larson, Andrew Juring, and James Pierce.

1983 - September 25. Rev. R. Keith Lee installed as pastor.

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METROLINA ZONE

All Saints Lutheran Church
(formerly Reformation)
900 Seneca Place
Charlotte, North Carolina 28210

"We give thanks to God for His blessings and for His saints in the past. We praise our Lord for His presence. We ask His guidance as we move into the future."

1956 - September 9. First service held (Pastor Marvin Tschatschula officiating).

1958 - January 19. Groundbreaking for the church building.

September 14. Dedication of building and furnishings - $75,000.

1960 - June. Three Brownie Scout troops sponsored by "Reformation" LWML.

First year of Kindergarten completed (closed Jan. 1975).

Many activities initiated in years past remain, such as Easter Breakfast, Love Feast, and Blind Auction, etc.

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Ascension Lutheran Church
1225 East Morehead Street
Charlotte, North Carolina 28204

1931 - Pastor Frerking came to Charlotte as Home Missionary in the Carolinas. (There was no Missouri Synod in Charlotte...in fact, very few in North Carolina, none in South Carolina.)

1931 - May 10. First public service in Wesley Heights Public School (4 worshippers).

August. Property on Summit Avenue purchased for $17,000.

September 11. Organized as Mount Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church (still the legal name). Total membership was 28.

1936 - First church building erected and dedicated, $6,500.

1939 - 120 Communicants. Pastor Frerking installed as pastor.

1942 - Christian Day School established.

1945 - Ascension Church chapel and school built on Morehead Street ($65,000).

1948 - 210 souls, 130 communicants released to Resurrection Church.

1954 - Ascension sanctuary erected, $195,000.

1956 - 65 souls, 35 communicants released to Reformation church.

1961 - Medical clinic purchased and remodeled, $110,000.

1962 - 58 souls, 30 communicants released to Way of the Cross Church.

1963 - Administration building constructed, $116,000.

1966 - 35th Anniversary, 1000 souls.

1970 - Ascension named "Landmark Church" by Lutheran Brotherhood.

1978 - 12 souls released to Lake Norman mission church.

1979 - 56 souls released to Messiah Church, Matthews.

1980 - 50th Anniversary of Ordination of Pastor Emeritus Frerking.

1981 - 50th Anniversary Celebration of Ascension Church.

1987 - "Because He Gave" $650,000 for renovation of church building, day school, Deaf Ministry Chapel.

ASCENSION, "A Church with a Heart for the City"

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Lord of Life Lutheran Church
700 Pleasant Drive
Charlotte, North Carolina 28211

1986 - New mission from Resurrection Lutheran Church.

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North and South Carolina Deaf Ministry
1228 Harding Place
Charlotte, North Carolina 28204

1985 - Summer. Call extended to Pastor Frank Wagenknecht as Missionary-at-Large and resource specialist in deaf ministry for North and South Carolina.

October 1. Ministry begun.

1986 - Pastor Wagenknecht installed, and remodeling begun on a house on Ascension's property for worship services.

February 23. First worship service in beautifully remodeled house - 75 worshippers.

Pentecost. First Confirmation Class held (25 adults joined and 5 children baptized).

July. Southeastern District accepted the constitution and Synod accepted The Chapel as a new congregation.

1987 - Spring. Membership is 39, and the small "house-chapel" is often too small. Ascension graciously made plans to include the deaf congregation in their remodeling program. The "1945 Chapel" (Ascension) was vacated to permit the remodeling and restoration of the chapel suitable for deaf worshippers.

August 16. First worship service in these new facilities. The funding to remodel the house and the 1945 Chapel came from friends from Pastor Wagenknecht's former parish in Florida, matching funds from AAL branches, a grant from the Chesapeake District LWML, as well as many gifts from the Carolinas District LWML (including Mission-of-the-Quarter gifts).

The hand of God working through His people has been evident in the brief history of The Chapel.

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Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Beattys Ford Road
Charlotte, North Carolina

1946 - St. Andrews Evangelical Lutheran Church came into being located on North McDowell Street (site of the present U.S. Post Office) created through amalgamation of two small black groups which had operated under the Mission Board of the Lutheran Synodical Conference.

Prince of Peace, Charlotte, Con't.

1948 - Transferred to the Southeastern District of Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

1962 - Ascension LWML undertook as one of their mission projects the operation of a Vacation Bible School in a new and extensive development in northwest Charlotte. Enlisting the cooperation of St. Andrews and the public school system (use of University Park Public School), over 500 children were enrolled. The venture was so successful it lead to the decision to open a new mission in the area.

1964 - Prince of Peace congregation organized. Pastor Bryant Clancy was the first pastor.

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Resurrection Lutheran Church
2825 Shenandoah
Charlotte, North Carolina 28205

1948 - January 1. Petition was requested and granted for release of the congregation (from Mount Calvary, Charlotte) to organize a new and independent congregation. This was a self-supporting parish from the beginning. The property at West Trade and Summit, including chapel, parish hall and parsonage, was deeded to the new congregation. This congregation decided to re-locate, and the property was sold and the proceeds used to purchase new property and to assist in financing a new church on Shenandoah Avenue.

The church now operates a full Christian Day School with 200 students, pre-school through high school (high school students attend Charlotte Christian School, tuition being paid by Resurrection Church).

1987 - Two Sunday morning worship services are held with 700 average attendance.

Two satellite congregations are Resurrection, Gaston, N.C. and Resurrection, Greenville, S.C.

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Grace Lutheran Church
58 Chestnut Drive
P. O. Box 891
Concord, North Carolina 28025

The history of Grace is the history of God working among His people in Cabarrus County. It is the history of Black Lutheranism and the history of Christian education.

1883 - November. Formally founded during the Reconstruction Period after the Civil War.

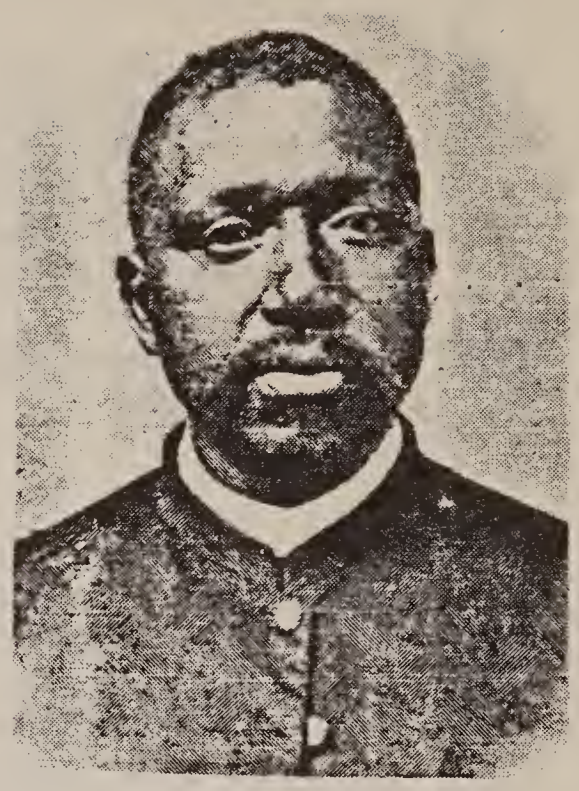
Grace became a member of the Alpha Synod (first and only Black Lutheran Synod).

Grace, Concord, Con't.

Founder was Rev. David James Koontz, born a slave. He came to faith and was confirmed by Rev. W. A. Julian, a white Lutheran minister who served in Rowan and Cabarrus Counties.

1893 - A two-story school building was built next to the first church (on Corbin Street in uptown Concord) with donations made by the children who attended Lutheran schools in the North. A high school was started, and later Immanuel Lutheran College (moved to Greensboro) was started at Grace under Rev. J. P. Smith. (Several former teachers are living and active in LWML - Wilma Lindsey, Verna King).

1938 - New building completed and dedicated (with two large classrooms which were used as a school for many years. Rev. Melvin Hosten, pastor).



REV.
DAVID JAMES KOONTZ

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

(old church building)

Corban Avenue, East

Concord

Immanuel Lutheran College
Concord, North Carolina

1903 - Under the leadership of Rev. J. P. Smith, five young men enrolled. By the end of the year the enrollment had increased to 11. The second story of the school house served as a dormitory and classroom and the little two-room frame cottage at the rear of the church was turned into a kitchen and dining room.

1905 - Immanuel College was transferred to Greensboro, North Carolina. Pastor Smith leaves to become a professor at Immanuel.

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St. Peter's Lutheran Church
Highway 49
Concord, North Carolina

1899 - Organized by Rev. N. J. Bakkee when the "Alpha Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Freedom in America" was only ten years old.

Worship services were often conducted under a large oak tree adjacent to a log cabin called "Dry School" where services were held until a church building was built.

1900 - First Sunday in August. Dedication service for the new church. Rev. N. J. Bakkee and the Rev. J. P. Smith were the pastors.

For many years, services were held on Sunday afternoons, twice a month. Pastors from area Southwestern District churches provided pastoral services. For 80 years, St. Peter's was an independent and self-supporting church.

1980 - Became a member of the Southeastern District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

1981 - August 2. Beginning of new church building construction.

1982 - January. First service in new church and dedication.
Membership: 65.
Yearly events are Vacation Bible School; Easter Program; 4th Sunday in June is the Youth and Adult Program; 1st Sunday in August is the church's anniversary; 1st Sunday in September is Woman's Day; 2nd Sunday in October is Harvest Home; and the Christmas Program.

Organizations: Ladies Aid, Men's Club.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
2435 Redbud Drive
Gastonia, North Carolina 28054

1962 - Mission work began (but interrupted when the missionary was called to fill a vacancy elsewhere).

1963 - Work resumed and church organized.

1968 - September 15. New facilities dedicated.

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Mount Calvary Lutheran Church
Texas Road
P. O. Box 250
Kannapolis, North Carolina 28081

Located in once known as the world's largest Cannon Towel Textile Mill City - now Cannon Fieldcrest Textile.

1898 - Mt. Calvary organized (Rev. J. P. Smith, a Missouri Synod missionary). Services were held in a home.

1902 - Two acres of land purchased and a small frame church built (seating capacity of 50). It was used for Sunday School, worship, and day school. It was the only school in this town for black children.

1919 - Received first full time pastor.

1930-1952 - Small building was enlarged to a seating capacity of 150. The school reorganized for kindergarten through grade 7.

1952 - Present building was completed with seating capacity of 300.

1962 - Charlter for LWML received.

1974 - School closed.

Program for senior citizens, classes for children needing help in math, English, reading, and science were offered.

Members of Mount Calvary thank and praise God for the blessing of worship services, Sunday School, Confirmation classes, Bible Study groups, youth participation in all church activities, especially for our music programs and our ladies missionary circles.

We thank God for His grace and mercy in keeping us alive to witness, Radiant with God's Love.

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Messiah Lutheran Church
8300 Providence Road
Matthews, North Carolina 28105

In response to encouragement from the Mecklenburg Circuit, the Southeastern District purchased a 3.88 acre site at the corner of Providence Road and Windbluff Drive, location which was, at that time, south of the Charlotte city limits.

1979 - October 14. A worship service was held in the ballroom of the Raintree Country Club. The attendance for that first service was 72. Many of these individuals attended an organizational meeting prior to the worship service at which foundation plans were made for the establishment of a permanent congregation. The Rev. Martin Baumgaertner, retired pastor of Ascension Lutheran Church of Charlotte, accepted the challenge of offering pastoral guidance to the group forming the nucleus for Messiah Lutheran Church.

December. The temporary worship center was moved to Charlotte Latin School and the young congregation continued to hold worship services and Sunday School at that site for the next three and one-half years.

1980 - February 24. Charter Sunday.

1981 - January 11. The congregation voted to call Robert H. Torgler to be Messiah's first full-time pastor. The call was accepted and Pastor Torgler and his family arrived at the beginning of April. The rite of installation was performed on May 14 by the Rev. Richard Hinz, president of the Southeastern District.

1984 - Messiah congregation officially dedicated its first house of worship and educational building on Sunday, May 13. The multi-purpose unit included a worship area seating about 250, seven classrooms, and office space.

1986 - August 3. Rev. Glenn M. Shelton was ordained and installed as Assistant Pastor.

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Crown in Glory Lutheran Church
East Bank and Clay Street
Salisbury, North Carolina

1971 - July 25. New building dedicated.

Rev. Oscar Jones, Pastor.

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SOUTHERN ZONE

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
902 Hitchcock Drive
Aiken, South Carolina 29801

1952 - July. Earl Geimer, seminary student, canvassed Aiken area to determine the interest in establishing a Missouri Lutheran mission church. (Aiken had been selected as the site for the Savannah River Nuclear plant, and was experiencing a big population growth).

1952 - September. Services were started in the Wilshire stables, which was converted to a small church.

1953 - May. Construction was begun on a church building. Serving the area was Pastor Paul Heinrichs, Missionary-at-Large for South Carolina. There were 43 families at the organizing of the church.

1955 - Parsonage built.

1958 - Construction completed on the church with the addition of the education building.

1983 - December. Thirty Year Eucharist Celebration with former members and pastors joining the celebration.

We are now enjoying an established church in a thriving community with active church, Sunday School, and Day School activities.

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Abiding Savior Lutheran Church
1905 East Greenville Street
Anderson, South Carolina 29621

The creation of Abiding Savior congregation is a "miracle" of God's Word fulfilled in Jesus Christ. For many years, the Rev. Theodore Hafner and key laymen of Circuit 18 pressed to start a mission in Anderson, South Carolina.

1981 - Seminarian Kenneth W. Schamens, a retired Air Force Colonel received his first "vicarage assignment" from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, with these words: "The Vicar, Ken Schamens, will be expected to gather a worshipping group and begin the task of organizing a mission congregation in the Anderson area. There is no nucleus of members, so he will need to begin at the very beginning." What follows is God's action in Word and Sacrament.

August 21. Vicar Schamens arrives in Anderson. There are three known souls interested!

Abiding Savior, Anderson, Con't.

August 28. Articles of Incorporation agreed upon.

August 30. First Holy Communion/Bible Study held in Bob Knudson home with 17 in attendance.

October 4. First worship service held at American Legion Hut with 47 in attendance.

December 31. 62 communicants, 72 baptized.

1982 - February 21. First services held at Watkins Teaching Center, Anderson College Campus.

August 13. Kenneth Schamens ordained and installed as pastor.

1983 - January 31. Membership totals 118 communicants and 154 baptized members.

February 13. First services held at the new church building. Celebration Festival held in the afternoon with a buffet supper following the service.

TO GOD ALONE BE ALL GLORY!!!

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Calvary Lutheran Church
1400 Manor Boulevard
Charleston, South Carolina 29407

1943 - Summer. Led by a Charleston-based service man, Gus A. Bremer, Jr., a few Missouri Synod Lutherans expressed a desire to form a mission congregation.

August 8. Pastor A. W Lehenbauer conducted the first service in the Charleston YMCA on George Street.

1944 - What had been a "faint ray of hope" now became a "brighter light."

April 10. Application was made for the Declaration and Petition for Incorporation.

April 29 at 12:30 P.M., Calvary Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod, of Charleston, South Carolina, was officially recorded.

Congregation purchased a house (with plans to build a church in the future on the adjacent lot).

1945 - February 18. Ground broken for a church building.

1946 - February 23. The new sanctuary was dedicated to the Glory of God. In the years that followed, Calvary experienced slow but steady growth.

1962 - July 29. Calvary had out-grown its facilities in central Charleston. The present sanctuary and education wing was dedicated on the three-acre tract along Highway 7 in Ashley Hall Manor.

Calvary, Charleston, Con't.

1962 - The beginning of a new era for Calvary. Rev. Edgar Runge was installed as pastor. The congregation grew in numbers and stability. The majority of the early congregation was military personnel and their families. More and more permanent members of the community became members (many retired military remained).

1976 - Pastor Runge retires and Rev. Robert W. Duddleston installed as pastor.

Today, the ever-growing congregation continues to WORSHIP, SERVE, SHARE the LORD, and to give Him the Glory in everything.

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COLOMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA, AREA CHURCHES

Mt. Olive
P. O. Box 7
Irmo, South Carolina 29063

1930 - A group of Lutherans in the area of Irmo met, and with the help of Rev. James Summers, Rev. Leslie Frerking and Rev. Fred L. Lineberger organized Mt. Olive Evangelical Lutheran Church as an independent organization, which was soon accepted into membership in the Missouri Synod. Charter membership - 200 souls.

Mrs. Betty Weed gave space in the front yard of her home for a place to worship. For two months services were conducted each Sunday with no rain during the worship service. Mr. Frank Weed gave the use of his store building (where the Home Furniture Company is today).

1932 - August. Land was purchased for our first church (built with a dirt floor).

1933 - April 2. Present church dedicated.

Mt. Olive has been led by ten pastors. Present pastor is Rev. Clarence Lobb. Present membership is 342 souls.

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Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
2015 Lorick Avenue
Columbia, South Carolina 29203

1908 - Organized. (Formerly, Tennessee Synod, joined South Carolina Synod).

The first house of worship was a large tent. Sadie Clyde can remember her mother, Minnie Lloyd, sewing the rips that popped up on it.

1914 - A strong windstorm blew the tent away! For a time they met in the Presbygerian Church on Augusta Street. Then they rented a store on Meeting Street, then the members built a frame chapel in Brookland (now West Columbia) on Center Street.

Holy Trinity, Columbia, Con't.

1928 - The congregation faced repeated trials and hardships, a succession of long pastoral vacancies and a lack of strong financial resources. (It is interesting to note that after Pastor Krep's death, his wife took care of the pastoral duties for several months.)

1930 - The South Carolina Synod informs the members that they could no longer supply a pastor to them. The congregation turned to the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod for help. Rev. Ronald Bosse, a professor at Concordia College, Conover, North Carolina, was called as their first pastor.

As near as can be determined, Pastor Bosse was able to serve for two years before moving to Ohio (Concordia College, Conover had been closed).

1932-1938. Pastor Lineberger left Mt. Olive, Irmo to start Messiah, Columbia. In these years, Mt. Olive and Holy Trinity shared pastors (along with Rev. Lineberger, off and on).

1938 - Pastor Lineberger called by the English District to serve as missionary in Columbia.

That same year, Messiah was organized (with the core of members from Mt. Olive).

1940 - December. Pastor Lineberger left to start a mission in Wilson, North Carolina.

1941 - January. Rev. W. Harry Krieger comes to Messiah. Later left to accept a call as Chaplain in the U.S. Army. (He was a former candidate serving at Ascension, Charlotte in 1939, and later, President of the Wisconsin District.)

1943 - February 28. Rev. George McCree installed as Messiah's pastor. During his ministry he conducted services at Holy Trinity, Brown's Chapel (Southeast Columbia-Leesburg Road). The congregation conducted a ministry to the soldiers based at Fort Jackson (100,000 stationed there). Messiah built a recreation hut (capacity 50) and furnished it with all the needed things. It was open Monday through Saturday. The ladies of the congregation provided coffee and cake.

1947 - December. Pastor McCree accepts another call.

1948 - July. Rev. John Nau becomes Messiah's pastor. This was his Sunday schedule:

6:00 A.M.	Service at Central Correctional Institution
9:00 A.M.	Service at Holy Trinity, Cayce
11:00 A.M.	Service at Messiah, Columbia
3:00 P.M.	Service at Brown's Chapel, Leesburg Road
6:00 P.M.	Service at Camden, a race tract garage/barn The nucleus there led to the formation of Saint Timothy's, the LCA church now in Camden.

1958 - Holy Trinity dedicated new church building (original building was remodeled for education building). At this time Pastor Tegeler conducted services at the City Hall in Greenville, South Carolina, laying the foundation for the church there.

Holy Trinity, Columbia, Con't.

1963 - Foundation laid for Holy Spirit Church.

1973 - Formation of Holy Shepherd Church.

1971 - June 20. Pastor Emmett Fastenau installed as pastor. Establishment of the Columbia Covenant Council (Holy Trinity and Holy Spirit brought into a close partnership). This was historic, since it signaled the joining of the black and white people of God. Fastor Fastenau was very active in the community.

1977 - Pastor Fastenau accepts a call to Asheville.

1978 - May. Carl A. Voges becomes pastor.

"God has never let go of His people here. And He never will! Let us step eagerly into the future. Let's do it."
The Rev. Carl Voges, pastor
The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 14, 1978

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Incarnate Word Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 1176
Florence, South Carolina 29503

(Regretfully, information was not available at press time.)

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Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
1601 N. Pleasantburg Drive
Greenville, South Carolina 29609

1953 - Organized as a mission with Pastor Clifford Riis. Several families connected with Donaldson Air Force Base in Greenville and Lutherans who had moved here from the Eastern seaboard were the nucleus of the mission. Worship was conducted in the Old City Hall building.

1958 - The present sanctuary was built and dedicated. Dr. Oswald Hoffman was the speaker for the dedication service.

1962 - Three pastors and a lay preacher, Kenneth Beachboard (who later completed his coloquay requirements and was ordained) served during 3-4 years. The congregation grew to 90 communicants, only to have the Air Force announce that the base would be closed by June 30, 1962. This represented a 30% loss. However, with new people moving into the area and successful evangelism, the congregation grew.

Good Shepherd, Greenville, Con't.

1969-1973. Mrs. Nancy Whatley painted four oil paintings in the sanctuary--depicting Jesus' Birth, the Crucifixion, The Resurrection, and The Giving of the Ten Commandments.

1975 - October. Pastor Theodore Hafner retires and Pastor Calvin Vick, Chaplain at Greenville Memorial Hospital was called and installed as pastor. This call was unusual in that the Vick family had been members for three years while he was a chaplain.

1978 - Additions to the church (classrooms, activity room, offices). Members of Good Shepherd participated in the organization of four area churches since 1979: Abiding Peace, Abiding Savior (Anderson), Resurrection, and in 1987, Immanuel (Simpsonville).

The people of Good Shepherd continue to look forward to God's blessings with opportunities to serve the Lord and to "be the church" year by year.

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Lutheran Church of the Risen Christ
10595 Highway 17 North
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29577

Middle 1970s. Dr. Leslie Frerking, former President of the Southeastern District, saw a need for the development of a congregation on the Grand Strand. In conjunction with the Southeastern District, services were held in a summer cottage in North Myrtle Beach.

1975 - Summer. Mr. Elwood Schultz conducted services at the Holiday Inn North.

September. Rev. Albert S. Kresken, Jr., begins working. Services continued to be held at the Holiday Inn.

1976 - January. The nucleus congregation moved to the white building adjoining the present church. (See NOTE below)

September. The Lutheran Day School was opened with 7 children in grades one and two.

December. The congregation was officially chartered as a member of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

1981 - June. The present structure was dedicated to the glory of God and offers its services to you.

NOTE: About the historical little white house, from the official South Carolina Historical Markers Directory:

"On his tour south, President George Washington spent the night of April 27, 1791, at the home of Jeremiah Vereen, Revolutionary Patriot, where he was "entertained" (and very kindly) without being able to make compensation. The next morning, Mr. Vereen piloted the President, enroute to Georgetown, across Wither's Swash on the strand now called Myrtle Beach."

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Island Lutheran Church
13 Wisteria Land
Hilton Head Island, South Carolina 29928

Our Purpose
...is to serve the Lord and His people by presenting and living the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

1981 - Pastor Milton J. Nauss and wife purchase home and retire to Hilton Head Island (at that time their plans were to join and worship at a LC-MS church in Savannah, Georgia, one and one-half hours away.

After moving, they wondered if an LC-MS church couldn't be established on the island. The English District Mission Board agreed to proceed, with the stipulation that Pastor Nauss serve as a part-time pastor.

1985 - June. The Nauss's move to Hilton Head. (In the meantime the Southeastern District asked the English District if they would transfer the proposed work to them since South Carolina is a part of their jurisdiction.) This was agreed upon, and the mission began under the supervision of the Southeastern District.

November. At the beginning, there was only one prospective family. Prior to the first service, acquaintance was made with two additional familes. 23 people (many of these were special visitors from the Carolinas LWML) were at the first service.

Currently, the average attendance is 40; we have 27 communicant members.

Hilton Head Island (largest south of Long Island, N.Y.) is 12 miles by 7 miles. It is a resort-retirement community of 19,000 permanent residents, with over one million tourists each year. Both of these figures are expected to increase with the years.

The majority of the permanent residents live in restricted communities called Plantations. This makes canvassing house-to-house impossible, so we are limited to the mails, telephone, and the local newspaper.

Worship Services and Sunday School is held in the beautiful Barksdale Banquet Room of the Port Royal Plantation Clubhouse (available free of

Island Lutheran Church, Hilton Head, Con't.

charge). We do not have a church site as of now (suitable property is in the $100,000 per acre range).

South Carolina is one of the last North American frontiers of our LC-MS. There are 15 churches in the entire state, with most of them in the 100-200 membership range.

Because of the dedication and consecration of the small corps of believers, financial needs are met and at the same time support is given to various mission and charitable endeavors.

1986 - August. We have managed without District subsidy.

We shall continue to serve both the residents and tourists, bringing them the assurance of the Lord's help and hope for this life and everlasting salvation for the after-life.

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Eternal Shepherd Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 1664
Seneca, South Carolina 29679-1664

A group of people studying the scriptures in home Bible study decided a mission Lutheran Church was the Lord's will in the Seneca area.

1984 - March 4. Rev. Kenneth Schamens from Abiding Savior, Anderson, commissioned thirteen people to begin a church in Seneca and assisted in conducting the first Vesper Service (held at Oconee Savings and Loan).

1985 - March. Dedication of land on Route 123. Rev. Howard Schoenfeldt was temporary pastor. Average attendance was 32.

October 28. Charter Sunday with 28 persons signing that day.

1986 - January 5. Rev. Kevin Graudin installed as our shepherd. 130 people attended this service.

1987 - January 18. Congregation met to lay foundation for planning and constructing their first facility. Approximately 50 communicant members and average attendance was 60.

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Immanuel Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 847
Simpsonville, South Carolina 29861

1986 - September 18. A group of six families began meeting for Bible Study, prayer and planning in homes of members.

December. Property purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Shelton Rimer and the Southeastern District. A large house on this property serves as a meeting place and future church home.

1987 - February 12. Pastor Howard Schoenfeldt, retired pastor now living in Hendersonville, North Carolina, began serving on a part-time basis.

May 30. Recognized by Southeastern District as a mission congregation.

June 7 (Pentecost). First Divine Worship Service. (29 members of Good Shepherd, Greenville, South Carolina, released to the mission.)

This was a glorious day, filled with praise and thanksgiving to our gracious Lord for granting us the privilege of being His instruments.

IMMANUEL - Isaiah 7:14: "God With Us"

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Lamb of God Lutheran Church
1645 Fernwood-Glendale Road
Spartanburg, South Carolina 29302

1913 - St. Luke Lutheran Church was founded (under the auspices of the old Synodical Conference, an advisory body of the early 1900s comprised of the Missouri, Wisconsin, Norwegian and Slovak Church). The ground work was begun by Rev. N. J. Bakke, who had been assigned to investigate the potential for black ministry in Alabama. Enroute, he traveled the South. He became aware of black Lutherans from North Carolina living in the Spartanburg area and soon stayed in their homes, preaching and conducting services. Eventually, black pastors from North Carolina began to serve these families along with their own. The first called pastor was the Rev. Carl Stol. Soon a parochial day school was started.

1963 - July 7. Rev. Paul Nicholson arrives as a Missionary-at-Large. He hears of this group of Lutherans and begins to serve them and establish the mission.

1966 - April 18. Lamb of God Lutheran Church was officially accepted as a member of the Southeastern District of the Missouri Synod.

May 19. Pastor Nicholson installed as pastor of both Lamb of God and St. Luke (the congregations worshipped separately).

1968 - November 24. Present structure (Lamb of God) dedicated.

1970 - The two congregations begin to discuss merging into one congregation.

May 17. A merger service conducted.

1971-1981. Rev. Herbert Plahn served the congregation.

Lamb of God, Spartanburg, Con't.

1981 - August 16. The present pastor, Rev. Barry Hildebrandt, installed.

1985 - December 31. Congregation becomes self-supporting.

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Grace Lutheran Church
1600 Old Trolley Road
Summerville, South Carolina 29483-8209

1977 - Early. Eight families of Calvary, Charleston, living in the Summerville area, approached Pastor Ed Runge, retired, asked him to help develop a mission in their area. He consented to serve. Pastor Duddleston and Calvary congregation gave their blessing and offered both moral and financial support.

August to October, six cottage meetings were held.

September. Land was purchased for a church site.

October 16. The opening church service was held at the American Legion Hall with 105 people in attendance.

1979 - July 8. Pastor John E. Graudin installed as first pastor.

1980 - May 2. With the approval of the constitution, Grace was formally received as a member of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

1981 - June 21. Groundbreaking for new church.

1982 - March 21. Dedication of church (a time capsule containing current items to the church was placed into the wall and a date stone set in this new building.

59 Families: 206 baptized members, 139 communicants.

Under the blessing of God, the members of Grace congregation look forward to adding to this history in their ongoing efforts as servants of Jesus Christ in the mission of adding many new names to the Book of Life under the Holy Spirit's power and blessing.

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WESTERN ZONE

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
51 Wilburn Place
Asheville, North Carolina 28806

THE FIRST STEP
1904 - Organized as First Lutheran Church on corner of South French Broad Avenue and Hilliard Avenue.

1908 - First sanctuary dedicated, the cost being $3,000.

THE SECOND STEP
1948 - Plans approved and construction begins on a two-story addition.

1949 - March. Dedication of 5 classrooms, assembly room, office.

1954 - Tract of land purchased in West Asheville.

THE THIRD STEP
1960 - May. New facilities in Wilshire Park dedicated. Congregation has 246 baptized members.

THE FOURTH STEP
1963 - Completed educational wing with the addition of four classrooms, storage, and more office space.

THE FAITH STEP
1985 - Baptized membership had increased 43 percent.
Communicant membership increased 73 percent.
Average church attendance increased 39 percent.
Sunday School enrollment increased 50 percent.
Day School enrollment increased 68 percent.

Certainly God has blessed our ministry here in church and school!

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Resurrection Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 691
Franklin, North Carolina 28734

1967 - Rev. George Schuster held first Lutheran services. Due to lack of support and interest of the people, the services were discontinued in 1968.

1976 - October. Application received from Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to begin a mission a Franklin.

December 5. First letter sent to all known Lutheran families in the area.

Resurrection, Franklin, Con't.

1977 - February 3. Group of families met (20 people present).

March 15. Pastor Paul Kibler accepts call to serve as mission developer.

April 10. First worship service (on Easter Sunday) with 62 in attendance.

April 14. The name of Resurrection Lutheran Church was adopted at the third meeting. Many gifts of money, equipment, etc. were given by sister congregations and organizations in the area and Synod Lutheran congregations. A complete list is available.

1979 - February 20. Contract to purchase St. Francis Catholic Church and Convent.

1982 - January 2. Moved into new church.

April 11. Easter Sunday, the church officially dedicated.

1984 - May. Rev. James Stoltenberg accepts call.

1986 - "Servant Event" is sponsored by Resurrection. This program trains young adults to be servants of our Lord by renovating homes of poor people in our area.

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Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 5035
Hendersonville, North Carolina 28739

1955 - October 13. Letter written by Mrs. Norma (Walter) Klabunde requesting the use of the Seagle Chapel for a group of Lutherans contemplating the establishment of a congregation.

1956 - June. First service held at Seventh Day Adventist Church. Name, 'Mt. Pisgah',' inspired by Deut. 34:1. The "Ladies Guild" was organized at the same time as the congregation.

1957 - January. A twenty-year lease was signed by the trustees of the Seagle Estate and officers of the congregation for the use of the Seagle Chapel. From a $5,000 loan from the Southeastern District, the buildings and grounds were converted into a beautiful and usable condition under the leadership of Walter Klabunde and willing volunteers.

July 7. Mt. Pisgah (St. Mary's Chapel as it is known to the Seagle family) was dedicated by Rev. Lester Wolf. Rev. Walter F. Stock was the first permanent pastor. Rev. Leslie Frerking preached the sermon and installed Pastor Stock.

...an interesting story of the love and dedication of the people of Mt. Pisgah, through times of joy, disappointments, struggles to keep their

church, the gifts of love from the members and especially the Seagle family follow through until...

1982 - The Trustees of the Seagle Estate announced that the Episcopal Church planned to use St. Mary's Chapel in their own expansion plans.

1984 - May 27. Groundbreaking for a new sanctuary took place (US Hwy. 64E).

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Augustana Lutheran Church
Route 3 Box 99
Hickory, North Carolina 28601

1905 - Augustana was established to proclaim the Gospel of Christ in the same location for 80 years.

What used to be a little country church will soon be at the hub of the greater metropolian area. Located at the corner of Highway 64-70, Lenoir Rhyne Blvd, and Robinson Road, Valley Hills Mall is just a stone's throw away. The new Holiday Inn is just across the highway. Soon a new Walmart shopping center will be built behind us. What the furure has in store for our congregation only the Lord of the Church knows for sure. But by the power of the Holy Spirit, we will continue to proclaim "A Changeless Christ for a Changing World."

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Christ Lutheran Church
324 Second Avenue SE
Hickory, North Carolina 28601

1894 - Professors at Concordia College, Conover, were determined to conduct preaching services in Hickory!

1903 - Chartering of the congregation (with Rev. Paul Boschoff).

1908 - First house of worship purchased from the Presbyterians (the little group had met in a hall). Rev. G. E. Long, pastor.

1922 - Rev. F. A. Freed begins his lengthy pastorate marked with many successes.

1926 - New house of worship constructed and dedicated. This building served the congregation for 45 years.

1956 - Kindergarten started.

1947 - April. Groundbreaking for a four-classroom school building. Soon Christ Lutheran School offered quality Christian education in grades K-6.

1969 - School closed.

Christ, Hickory, Con't.

1971 - Spring. Present beautiful and functional building dedicated.

1980 - January. New wing constructed to complete Christ church. This includes a Parish Hall, a Chapel for the Deaf, a youth room, and five additional classrooms.

Christ Church is poised to face the many challenges that still remain, by the Grace of God.

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St. Matthew's Lutheran Church
307 West Court Street
Marion, North Carolina 28752

1905 - Services were conducted in the Methodist church by the Rev. S. Keisler of Catawba County.

1925 - Rev. W. D. Peters of Asheville tried again by hold services in homes. Both times the work was abandoned due to poor prospects for growth.

1931 - Spring. Rev. Leslie Frerking worked toward establishing a mission here while he was serving Rutherfordton.

Rev. Paul A. Boriach also became interested in Marion as a location for a Lutheran church. After meeting with the few Lutherans and other families interested, plans were made.

1932 - February 14. First Lutheran service was held in St. John's Episcopal church. Rev. O.W.H. Lindemeyer, who was then professor at Concordia College, Conover, delivered the sermon. There were 57 attending the service. There were 45 in attendance the following Sunday.

The McDowell County Commissioners granted the use of the large auditorium in the court house to the Lutherans.

April 11. The small group of Lutherans met at the home of J.H.L. Miller in Pleasant Gardens to organize what is now St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Marion, North Carolina.

1935 - January 13. The cornerstone for the church was laid (West Court Street) and a service of thanksgiving to God was held in the Marion High School.

The rock for the church came from the Catawba River.

June 2. Three special services were held commemorating the joyous occasion of dedication. Approximately one thousand people attended!

1939 - Parsonage and fellowship hall built.

The congregation was active in the selection of the site for Camp Linn Haven, promoted The Lutheran Hour, broadcasting services locally, sponsored

St. Matthew's, Marion, Con't.

Displaced Persons after World War II, took an active part in LLL, LWML, Walther League. The McDowell Family Services had its beginning through St. Matthew's and a grant from the Lutheran Wheat Ridge Foundation.

Through all the joys and sorrows, St. Matthew's is presently at a point where our small congregation can look back just for a moment and take courage from our founding fathers and, by the grace of God, "Advance through Adversity," by following them and HIM!

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Our Savior Lutheran Church
Route 6 Box 683
Hickory, North Carolina 28601

1959 - December 20. Groundbreaking ceremonies begin at 2:30 p.m., conducted by Pastor R. F. Lineberger.

1960 - May 1. Pastor Raymond H. Witt accepts a call to Our Savior.

August 14. Church dedicated with Pastor Lester Wolf conducting services. Pastor Witt installed at 4:00 with Pastor Lineberger, speaker. Pastor Frerking performed the rite of installation.

1961 - January 15. Charter Sunday (104 communicants, 170 souls).

1964 - Congregation becomes self-supporting.

1976 - Celebrated its 16th anniversary. A 20-year mortgage was burned which had been paid off in just 16 years!

At present there are 343 baptized members, 274 communicants.

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St. Stephens Lutheran Church
2304 Springs Road
Hickory, North Carolina 28601

1898 - The beginning date set for St. Stephen's Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod., but roots go back more than a century beyond that, reflected in many of the family names in a history book.

The first pastor of our parish was the Rev. Andrew Crouse, who came in 1890 to serve St. Stephen's, a congregation of the Tennessee Synod. At that time there were two Lutheran congregations in the immediate area, St. Stephens and Miller's. They were members of different synods, but both worshipped in the same eight-sided church building on the west side of Springs Road, where part of St. Stephen's cemetery is now. Several congregations in the area owe their beginnings in part to the missionary efforts of Pastor Crouse.

St. Stephens, Hickory, Con't.

This was a time of disagreement among Lutherans in this country over certain teachings: how God chooses those who are saved; when churches have enough agreement to join together; whether Christians should join certain organizations; and whether Christ is going to establish a visible kingdom on earth before the end. As a result of differences over these matters with the Tennessee Synod and among some people here, Pastor Crouse and others decided that it would be better to form a new congregation.

1905 - For a while all three congregations used the same church building, but in April Pastor Crouse's group decided to join the Missorui Synod and to build their own church.

1907 - Dedication of the new church building, and it is still a part of the present structure. That same year, Pastor Crouse accepted a call to Charlottesville, V.A.

1934 - May. This frame church was moved onto a foundation and expanded.

1943 - A Parish School begun. (The recent erection of a school building with a gym and the rapid retirement of its mortgage reflects the congregation interest in this phase of its life.

1960 - Third change to the building to its present form was dedicated (addition of the balcony and narthex on the Spencer Road side).

Future - A new church building has been proposed and is the dream of many members of St. Stephens.

The congregation shares interest in the church-at-large, reflected in the work and contributions of its people for Synod and community and in providing a place of training for several generations of seminary vicars.

We look back upon our history with gratitude for many things, and we look to our future, realizing that we are now providing the history for future generations. MAY WE UNDER GOD MAKE IT AN INSPIRING ACCOUNT.

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Our Savior Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 174
Waynesville, North Carolina 28786

The little "A" frame church, nestled among the pine trees across the road from the Haywood County Hospital is not a stranger to our community, having been there now for over a dozen years. Yet the history of Lutherans in Haywood County goes back to a time many years earlier.

1825 - First Lutheran parish, "Morning Star" was organized in The Dutch Cove area of Canton (Rev. Nehemiah Bonham, pastor).

1866 - Pastor Bonham's ministry was very effective, but ill health and an untimely death arrested the growth of Lutheranism for over a century and a half.

Shortly before his death, Nehemiah Bonham called his little flock together in the old log church to tell them that his work was nearing its end. Being unable to rest with the fear that his people would be left without a leader, he called their attention to a Methodist congregation which was gaining strength on Pigeon River, and advised them that, should no preacher of the Lutheran doctrine "be raised up or come among them" to carry on the work he was leaving, it was his wish that they unite with what was known as James Shook's Methodist Church on Pigeon River. Soon after their Pastor's death, the Morning Star Lutheran congregation affiliated with the Methodist Church and it has been Methodist ever since.

1961 - From the encouragement and support from Emmanuel Church, Asheville, approval was given for a mission station to begin.

January 15. First service held at the Nurse's Residence of Haywood County Hospital with Rev. Armin C. Draegert, Emmanuel, officiating.

June 18. Vicar Hilbert Dorn commissioned to serve the area.

Fall. The mission being less than a year old, the Mission Board of the Southeastern District gave the authority to become a parish, with the the name from that point on being "The Lutheran Church of Our Savior." At that time there were 31 baptized and 21 communicant members.

Throughout the history of the congregation, concern for the needs of people both near and far was seen as an important part of parish life and ministry. Example: Kits for Lutheran World Relief, Mite Box offerings, rolling of medical bandages, collecting food for the needy.

1971 - March 28. Service of dedication of the church, with Rev. Charles S. Mueller, President of the Southeastern District delivering the message.

November 3. Facilities approved for a Day Care Center under the Child Development Program.

In the years since, the parish has continued with an emphasis on Christian Service. There are 134 baptized and 122 communicant members.

The setting remains much the same: A small "A" frame church nestled near some pine trees opposite the County Hospital... a place for sharing together in God's peace and forgiveness; and a place for sharing in service before Him.

Along with the thanksgiving, there is the ongoing prayer that we might be a continued blessing.

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